

Appln. No. 09/762,545
Response dated January 31, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 24, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-14 and 16-26 are pending.

THE §103(a) REJECTION

Claims 1, 3, 5-14, 16-20 and 22-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mackey, U.S. Pat. No. 5,670,553 (Mackey herein). Claims 2, 4 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mackey and Clatty, U.S. Pat. No. 4,751,252 (Clatty herein).

In rejecting the Claims, the Office Action made the following assertions. First, on page 2, the Office Action states, "an IMR enhancer component (the carboxylic acid described beginning at column 3, line 33 may be viewed as an enhancer component)". Second, on page 3, the Office Action states, "Mackey teaches or suggests the aspect of reacting a fatty acid condensation product with an isocyanate in the presence of an IMR enhancer compound . . . column 5, lines 33-35." Third, on page 3, the Office Action states, "[t]he examiner takes Official Notice that mineral oil is known to enhance IMR as in claim 23."

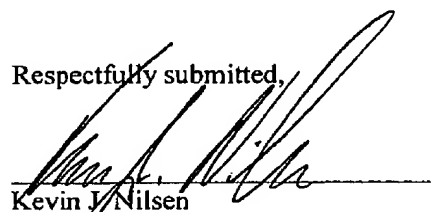
Applicants disagree and traverse the rejection as follows. The Examiner first contends that "(the carboxylic acid . . . may be viewed as an enhancer component)". The specification, on page 6, lines 8-11, defines the enhancer compound as a liquid petroleum oil. Petroleum is defined as "a highly complex mixture of paraffinic, cycloparaffinic (naphthenic) and aromatic hydrocarbons, containing a low percentage of sulfur and trace amounts of nitrogen and oxygen compounds." (page 889 of Hawley's Condensed Chemical Dictionary 12th Ed., R.J. Lewis Sr., Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, NY, NY, 1993). Since carboxylic acid is not a liquid petroleum oil, the Office Action's first contention is in error. Likewise, the citation to Mackey of the second contention fails to describe the enhancer compound as just described and therefore fails to add anything to the first contention. Finally, Applicants, as per MPEP 2144.03, specifically request the Examiner to provide references and explain in detail what the Examiner has relied upon to support the third contention (i.e., mineral oils are known to enhance the internal mold release

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of fatty acid condensation internal mold release compounds when incorporated therewith). In the absence of such evidence, the Examiner has failed to make a *prima facie* case of obviousness and as such each of the independent Claims and Claims dependent therefrom are non-obvious.

Considering the foregoing reasons, Claims 1-14 and 16-26 are patentable. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of Claims 1-14 and 16-26.

Respectfully submitted,



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